

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6494

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0675

FOR RCO AND RSO BONN

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC AVCE

SUBJ: PROTECTIVE MOBILE RADIO SYSTEM: AMBASSADOR'S VEHICLE

REF: (A) BONN 5038, (B) USBERLIN 627

1. WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE EXPRESSED IN REF (A) TO KEEP CRISIS CONTROL IN US HANDS, BUT ALSO FEEL MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS OF AN ALARM SYSTEM IN BERLIN REQUIRES A TERMINAL IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS AS WELL AS IN OUR EOC.

2. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, AN ALARM SYSTEM WOULD HAVE TWO BASIC PURPOSES: (A) TO ALERT THOSE WHO WOULD NEED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE SCENE AS WELL AS SEAL IT OFF; AND (B) TO TRANSMIT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES EVERYTHING THAT IS SAID OR HEARD IN THE VEHICLE FROM THE TIME THE ALARM IS ACTIVATED. THE BERLIN POLICE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S SAFETY IN BERLIN (WEST), HAVE SUCH A SYSTEM NOW IN OPERATION FOR VEHICLES OF LEADING BERLIN OFFICIALS. IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT AND ACTIVATION BY THE DRIVER OF A SWITCH, EVERYTHING AUDIBLE IN THE VEHICLE IS TRANSMITTED OVER A LOUDSPEAKER (AND INTO A TAPE RECORDER) AT THE POLICE OPERATIONS CENTER. THIS ENABLES IMMEDIATE DESPATCH OF RADIO CARS AND OTHER ASSETS TO THE SCENE

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AND PROVIDE SOME RECORD OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED. WE WOULD ENVISAGE ADDING THE AMBASSADOR'S VEHICLE TO THIS SYSTEM.

3. HAVING A TERMINAL ONLY IN THE US HEADQUARTERS EOC WOULD ADD AN EXTRA STEP TO THE ALERT PROCESS, SINCE THE EOC WOULD THEN NEED TO NOTIFY THE POLICE. THIS WOULD COST TIME AND, UNLESS THE ENTIRE TRANSMISSION RECEIVED FROM THE VEHICLE

WERE RE-TRANSMITTED BY THE EOC TO THE POLICE, MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ENSURE THAT THE POLICE HAD ADEQUATE INFORMATION ENABLING THEM TO DEPLOY QUICKLY TO THE SCENE AND TAKE THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE STEPS OTHERWISE.

4. GIVEN THE IMPERATIVE IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT OF IMMEDIATE ACTION, WHICH IN MOST SITUATIONS ONLY THE POLICE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUT, WE FEEL THAT WHETHER THE POLICE ARE TO BE NOTIFIED DIRECTLY OR VIA THE EOC SHOULD NOT BE A ISSUE. THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS SHOULD BE USED, WHICH IN OUR VIEW WOULD BE A TERMINAL AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EOC WOULD ALSO BE RECEIVING THROUGH ITS TERMINAL, AND US ASSETS, INCLUDING HELICOPTERS, WOULD BE CALLED INTO ACTION AS APPROPRIATE. ONCE AVAILABLE, US DECISION-MAKERS WOULD OFCOURSE EXERCISE CRISIS CONTROL, INCLUDING CONTROL OVER FURTHER ACTIONS BY THE POLICE. DURING THE INITIAL ESPECIALLY CRITICAL PHASE, HOWEVER, WHEN THE RADIO ALERT SYSTEM WOULD PLAY ITS MAIN ROLE, THE POLICE WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE THE MAJOR ACTORS.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS. GEORGE

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